

(Continued from front cover)

crops in the **northern Corn Belt**. Late-week frost in the **northern Corn Belt** did not adversely affect maturing corn and soybeans, although temperatures fell to 40°F or below as far south as **central Illinois**. Farther south, showers slowed fieldwork but boosted topsoil moisture from **eastern Texas** to **Mississippi**. At week's end, Hurricane Gordon formed over the **eastern Gulf of Mexico**, then moved north-northeastward and weakened to tropical-storm intensity before making landfall near **Cedar Key, FL** on the evening of September 17. (Additional details on Gordon will appear in next week's summary.)

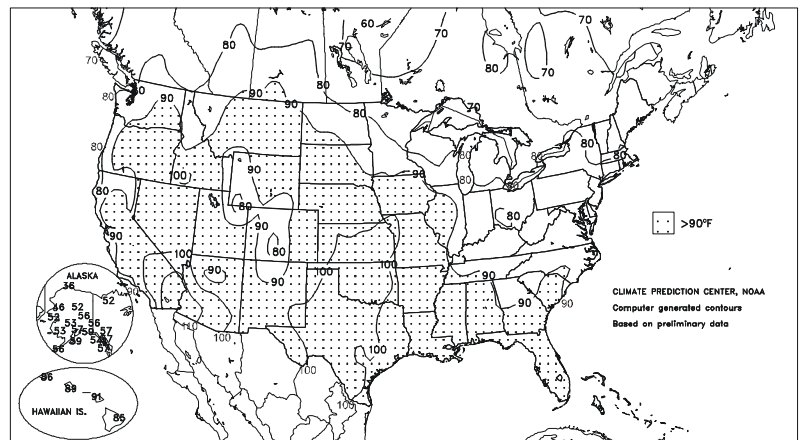
Early in the week, beneficial showers lingered in portions of the **Interior Northwest**. Several locations in **eastern Oregon** noted daily-record rainfall totals on Sunday, including **Meacham** (1.24 inches) and **LaGrande** (0.58 inch). A day later, heavy rain shifted into the **Great Lakes region**, where **Detroit, MI** (3.71 inches) and **Milwaukee, WI** (2.96 inches) collected record rainfall for September 11. **Detroit's** total also represented their greatest single-day September rainfall, surpassing the record of 3.21 inches set on September 3, 1879. During the first 16 days of the month, **Detroit's** precipitation of 6.19 inches marked their highest September total since 7.52 inches fell in 1986.

Farther south, showers provided limited relief from long-term dryness. **Joplin, MO** netted a daily-record total of 1.12 inches on Tuesday, ending their 24-day (August 19 - September 11) spell without measurable rainfall. In **Texas**, **Abilene** received 0.35 inch on September 12, ending their record-tying dry spell at 72 days (July 2 - September 11). **Abilene** also registered a 72-day streak without measurable precipitation in June-August 1970. Heavier rain eased drought in the **central and western Gulf Coast region**, where **Galveston, TX** (3.50 inches on September 13) posted a daily-record rainfall. Rain bypassed most of the **Plains**, however, allowing record-breaking dry spells to persist in locations such as **Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX** (78 days without measurable rain from July 1 to September 16) and **Oklahoma City, OK** (49 days without a drop of rain from July 30 to September 16).

Meanwhile, late-season heat continued to grip areas from the **Plains westward**. **Denver, CO** posted a high of 95°F on Saturday, their record-tying 60th day this year with highs at or above 90°F. **Denver** also observed 60 such days in 1994. **North Platte, NE** tallied 7 days of 90°F heat during the first 16 days of September, boosting their year-to-date total to 63 days. **North Platte's** record of 67 days was established in 1934 and 1936. Records for the number of September days with triple-digit heat were set in locations such as **Dallas-Ft. Worth** (7 days, breaking the 1951 record of 6 days), **Oklahoma City** (7 days, breaking the 1998 record of 6 days), and **Amarillo, TX** (5 days, breaking the 1947 record of 3 days).

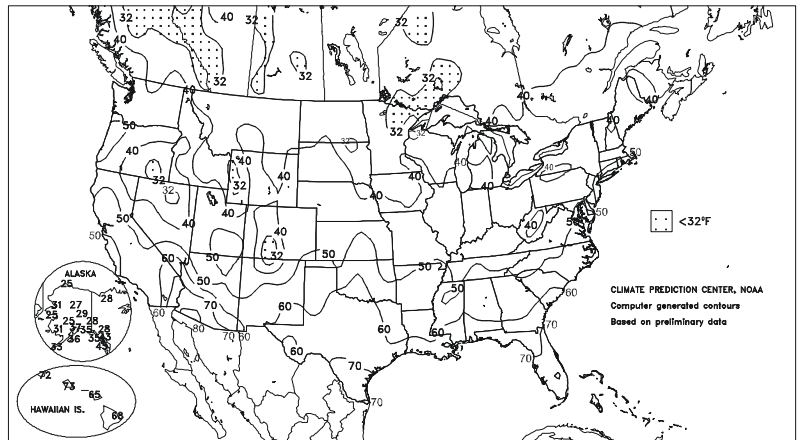
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

SEP 10 - 16, 2000



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

SEP 10 - 16, 2000



With a high of 106°F on September 11, **Wichita** noted their latest reading above 105°F. Their previous record was 106°F on September 3, 1947. Farther north, **Boise, ID** attained 101°F on September 14, their latest observance of a high above 100°F. On the same day, **Phoenix, AZ** tallied 112°F, their latest reading above 110°F and third-warmest September day on record. September-record highs were set or tied during the week in several locations, including **Tucson, AZ** (107°F on Thursday), **Bozeman, MT** (97°F on Friday), and **Butte, MT** (93°F on Friday).

Cooler air reached the **Plains** late in the week, dropping **Wichita's** temperature (53°F on September 15) to its lowest level since June 18. Farther north, lows included 30°F in **Hayward, WI**, 31°F in **Grand Forks, ND**, and 32°F in **Aberdeen, SD**. A day later, daily-record lows included 39°F in **Springfield, IL** and 40°F in **Gilbert, AR**. Record heat continued in the **West**, however, where Saturday's high soared to 108°F in **Pasadena** and **San Bernardino**.

In **Hawaii**, significant showers were confined to windward locations, while mostly dry weather prevailed in drought-affected leeward areas. Meanwhile, cool (as much as 4°F below normal), showery weather continued to affect **Alaska**. **Cold Bay** noted a daily-record low of 35°F on Friday.